(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when these cards are likely to be issued;

(d) whether any special benefits are likely to be provided to exclusive groups like citizens, women, BPL card holders, etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Department of Posts intends to introduce anytime anywhere banking for the Post Office Savings Bank account holders in which debit cards may be issued to the customers to do the transactions. However, it is in a conceptual stage and details have not been worked out and it is also not possible now to indicate a time frame.

NASSCOM recommendations on India's Cyber Laws

351. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to bring the Indian cyber laws at par with the global standards and make them fool-proof;

(b) whether it is a fact that NASSCOM engaged a group of law firms in India, UK and USA to look into the whole gamut of cyber laws in India;

(c) if so, whether the group has submitted its report of recommendations;

(d) whether Government have studied those recommendations; and

(e) if so, the outcome of study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) An Expert Committee had been set up under the Chairmanship of secretary, Department of Information Technology (DIT)to review the legal framework and propose amendments in Information Technology Act, 2000, if required, to adhere to global standards.

(b) As per NASSCOM, they have worked with lawyers from various countries to examine Indian legal framework and compare it with cyber laws in US and EU.

(c) As a Member of the Expert Committee, NASSCOM has submitted its recommendations to the Committee.

(d) and (e) The Expert Committee is examining the inputs received from NASSCOM and stake holders.

Expansion of telecom network

352. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has crossed 100 million telephone mark to become the fifth largest telecom network in the world after China, US Japan and Germany;

(b) whether India targeted 250 million phone connections by 2007;

(c) whether potential to expand telecom network in India is immense as its teledensity is currently pegged at only about 9% against over 100% in US, Japan and Germany; and

(d) if so, the total target set up by Government on phone connections and whether all the villages would be covered by phone upto 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNUICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. the number of telephones in India as on 30th June , 2005 is 103.29 millions.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The target set up by the Government for telephones is 250 millions by 2007. The remaining village with more than 100 population are to be provided with Village Public telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007.